**Setting up OCTOPUS by Andhra Pradesh to counter terrorism**

2992. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that Hyderabad is one of the important cities facing terrorist threat in the country;

(b) whether it has come to his notice that State of Andhra Pradesh set up OCTOPUS to counter terrorist offences;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the OCTOPUS has barely 10 per cent of the force that it originally planned and hence not able to effectively perform its functions;

(d) if so, whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received by his Ministry for help;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action contemplated on such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As per available inputs, some of the major cities and iconic installations are on the target of terrorists, including Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) As per available inputs, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has created an organization namely Organization for Counter Terrorist Operation (OCTOPUS), to combat the terrorist menace, with the strength of 1590 executive personnel. The OCTOPUS at present has a strength of 390 executive personnel. The State Government is reorganizing OCTOPUS as a commando unit on the lines of National Security Guard. The State Government have informed that personnel have to be selected and trained for commando operations and it is expected that the OCTOPUS will have full strength in about year's time.

(d) to (f) The Government of India extends assistance to the States under the Modernization of State Police Forces Scheme (MPF Scheme). Assistance is also provided by way of training of personnel etc. The Central Paramilitary Forces are also deployed at the request of States Government. As per available inputs, no specific request with reference to OCTOPUS has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

**Use of IAF in anti-naxal operations**

2993. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved use of IAF in anti-naxal operations;

(b) if so, whether Government has evolved a doctrine for usage of IAF in anti-naxal and anti-insurgency operations; and

(c) whether Government would consider developing separate air-wing of the paramilitary forces involved in anti-insurgency operations in the border regions and anti-naxal operations in hinterland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. State Governments take appropriate action against the naxalites. Central Government assists them by providing Central Paramilitary Forces.

(c) No, Sir. However, Border Security Force has air-wing which caters to the requirement of Central Paramilitary Forces.

**China arming Indian Maoists**

2994. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is arming the Indian Maoists who have stepped up their operations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Ensuring benefits to guards of private security agencies**

2995. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is ensuring that the private security agencies are paying the prescribed wages, PF, ESI, bonus, leave, etc. to guards engaged by them;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints that the benefit under various Acts such as Payment of Wages Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Minimum Wages Act, etc., are not being given to the security guards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Government has enacted the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 for regulation of private security agencies. Section 13(1)(i) of the Act already mandates compliance of the provisions of various Acts given in the Schedule to the said Act which include (i) the payment of Wages Act, 1936; (ii) the industrial Disputes Act, 1947; (iii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; (iv) the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; (v) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; (vi) the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; (vii); the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 (viii) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and (ix) the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.